



A I C A A

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE ARMENIAN INDEPENDENT
CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
P.O.Box 72582
Marietta, GA 30007-2582

Dear AICAA Members and Friends:

I must first apologize for the delay in sending you our newsletter. It's been very hectic these past few months and your new board has been very busy planning and addressing many important issues.

The annual meeting of the association was held on August 29, 1993. The following community members were unanimously elected as directors to serve you for the next two years:

<u>NAMES</u>	<u>TELEPHONE NUMBERS</u>
Aram Sarhadian, President	971-8368
Marilda Stepanian, Secretary	446-1392
Joseph Yahnian, Treasurer	993-5860
Kevork Yacoubian, Ways and Means	499-9550 Ext. 109
Ann Poteet, Publications	422-2799
Sonia Maghdoussian, Cultural	448-5146
Nishan Vartanian, Public Relations	698-0190

If you haven't already done so, please give them a call to congratulate and encourage them to effectively perform their responsibilities.

The annual meeting began with prayers (group recitation of Hair Mer - The Lord's Prayer) and enthusiastic singing of Mer Hairenik (The Armenian National Anthem). This was a very important meeting during which the members, after much deliberation, revised the bylaws and reaffirmed AICAA's commitment to maintain our independent/non-affiliated course in order to serve the entire Armenian Community of Atlanta and its friends without discrimination. The AICAA members and its board have pledged not to undertake or encourage activities that are divisive, detrimental to the pursuit of the Armenian National Interests, and

preservation of its culture and heritage.

UNITY AND TOLERANCE will remain our logo which we hope will also be the primary endeavor of all Armenians. Despite the hurdles placed in our way, maintaining a harmonious and tolerant relationship with all Armenians and their organizations will be one of your board's primary objectives. The AICAA does not and will not engage in favoritism or partisan affiliations. Armenians and their friends, whatever their country of origin; the United States, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Armenia, Eastern or Western Europe, and even lands as far away as Samarkand, Uzbekistan, are welcome to join our ranks and exercise their democratic right to vote and determine the future of our association. I hope and pray that all other Armenian organizations and their leadership will be guided by visionary individuals and follow the same course as ours. Our 1994 membership drive begins in December. So come and join us. We are having a good time, all the time. More to follow.

Aram Sarhadian

RUMOR CONTROL

"Bitter plants can become medicine, but bitter words can cause ulcers."

Armenian proverb contributed by Hilda Guerguerian

Don't believe in rumors circulated by some in our community. Its not true unless you've heard it directly from one of the current AICAA board members.

RECENT BOARD DECISIONS

The AICAA board has already had several meetings and decided on the following:

1. Change of address (please make a note)
2. Donation to the Armenian Embassy Building Fund
3. Upcoming events
4. Formation of a theater group
5. Formation of a band
6. Dance lessons/instructions
7. Armenian lessons and educational meetings
8. Contests
9. Annual raffle and fund-raising drive
10. Publication of a local Armenian Directory
11. New Year's Party, and
12. Much more surprises

Mark your calendars now to come and celebrate **New Year's Eve** together Armenian Style. A complete annual schedule will be sent at a later date. If you are interested in purchasing or selling Raffle Tickets please call Kevork Yacoubian at 499-9550 Ext. 109 or Sonia and Alphonse Maghdoussians at 938-6355.

CURRENT EVENTS

As you were previously informed, there were four doctors and scholars from Armenia attending a seminar at the Emory University. In order to introduce our overseas friends to the Atlanta Community we organized a reception in their honor on October 17. The event was a tremendous success. We were particularly pleased to see so many new faces who may join our ranks and support our community efforts. Many thanks to the entire board for making this event a glowing success. Special thanks to Sonia and Alphonse Maghdoussian, Seran and Art Megerian, Shakeh and Joseph Yahnian, Hripsime and Bedros Dido, Mr. & Mrs. Kabbenjian (Hovan Gourmet), Ann Poteet, Filyan Dido, Vahan and Anahid Loussarian, Marilda (Stepanian) and David McPherson, Betsy and Nishan Vartanian, Hilda and Rico Guerguerian, Kevork Yacoubian, and Mary and Aram Sarhadian, for all their work and generous contributions. Thank you also Carmen Kamciyan for singing us "Dele Yaman".

Before our guests flew to Washington, Aram Sarhadian visited with them. They told him that they were going away with unforgettable memories of our Atlanta-Armenian Community. As your representative, they gave Aram a note written in Armenian which thanks specifically the AICAA for coordinating their stay in Atlanta and the following individuals and/or families for their gracious hospitalities and assistance:

Shake and Joseph Yahnian
Juliette and Robert Apkarian
Rubina Ohanian
Armen Tashjian
Mary and Aram Sarhadian

Joyce and Ara Keyfer
Anahid and Vasken Najarian
Carmen and Jano Kamciyan
Kevork Yacoubian
Sarkissian Family

Also, thanks and appreciations to all who came and honored our guests at the reception.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

As most of you know, the Festival of Trees is an annual activity sponsored by the AICAA. The theme of the presentation this year is "Armenian Christmas by Candlelight" symbolizing the hardships faced by our fellow Armenians. If you have any Armenian Christmas tree decorations or articles that may fit into this theme, please call Mary Sarhadian at 971-8368 or Seran Megerian at 252-5176.

The Festival of Trees takes place at the World Congress Center. So please come and support this worthwhile activity. The Festival of Trees is also self-sustaining for which a special purpose fund has also been established. For your generous donations, please call our treasurer, Joseph Yahnian at 993-5860 or send your check to our post office box.

SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Unified Armenian Church Council of Atlanta invites all the members of the Armenian Community and their friends to attend Divine Liturgy on Sunday November 21, 1993 at 2:30 PM.

Services will be held at the St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church located at 2045 Ponce de Leon Ave. in Atlanta, GA. Following the Divine Liturgy which will be celebrated by Father Nerses Manoogian of Philadelphia, Thanksgiving dinner will be served in the downstairs hall by the ladies of the AICAA. Following dinner, a meeting will be held to elect new council members.

For special requests, baptisms, hokehankisd, etc. contact Ara Dostourian at 924-9813 or Seran Megerian at 252-5176.

How to get to St. Elias:

From I-75 take Exit 100 and go East on North Ave. Make a left on Peachtree. Make a right on Ponce de Leon. Church is on the right.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

The Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh: An Armenian Perspective

Few people outside Armenia and Azerbaijan understand the origins of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh or its significance to Armenians. It traces back to Soviet leaders, first to Stalin and then to Gorbachev.

On Dec. 1, 1920, the day Armenia joined the Soviet Union, Chairman Nairman Nairmanov of Azerbaijan's Revolutionary Committee confirmed in writing that the Armenian enclaves of Nagorno-Karabakh, Nakhichevan, and Zangezur would be recognized as undetachable parts of Armenia. Josef Stalin at first praised the declaration in *Pravda*. In July 1921, however, he imposed his will on a plenary session of the Caucasian Bureau of Soviet Russia's Communist Party Central Committee, and caused a reversal of Azerbaijan's decision.

Later, the Azerbaijanis kept Nakhichevan as well. The lesson of Nakhichevan is not lost on the Karabakh Armenians. In 1921 Nakhichevan was over half Armenian. Today no Armenians are left there.

In January 1988, inspired by Gorbachev's *glasnost*, 126,000 Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh openly petitioned for independence from Azerbaijan. In Armenia, peaceful rallies took place in support of the Karabakh Armenians.

Azerbaijanis responded with a series of pogroms in February 1988 against Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh and the rest of Azerbaijan. In Sumgait, mobs killed 300 Armenians, and in Baku and other cities hundreds of Armenian men, women and children were killed. Over 300,000 Armenians fled for their lives and most today remain refugees.

In November 1988, the conflict became a military one that has since claimed thousands of lives on both sides. The Azerbaijanis then began their blockade of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenia's support of the Karabakh Armenians' struggle does not justify Azerbaijan's attempt to freeze and starve to death a nation of 3.5 million people.

As a result of an amendment to the 1992 Freedom Act, the U.S. has embargoed aid to Azerbaijan. While the U.S. has pledged over \$12 million in aid to Armenia, the Azerbaijani blockade and Turkey's resistance to allowing humanitarian aid into Armenia has kept Armenia poised on the brink of destruction.

For more information about the American Committee to Lift the Blockade of Armenia, call (617) 259-0202.

—N.N.

The article above appeared in the April/May issue of The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs. It is written by Nancy Najarian. We share it with you so that you can use its essence in your conversations with non-Armenians who are not familiar with the root causes of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabagh.

THE KHOJA

Is there anyone who has not heard the antics of Khoja Naser-ed-din? Those of you who have, I hope you'll enjoy another of his capers. Khoja Naser-ed-din is a well known Middle-Eastern character whose stories are told by many nations.

One day, a poor man found a dry piece of bread. As he passed the bazaar, he saw a man cooking a sizzling piece of meat on an open fire. It smelled delicious. He took his dry piece of bread and held it close to the pan. As the smoke and steam gave flavor to the bread, he began eating his dinner, the dry piece of bread. He was about to move away but the cook grabbed hold of him and demanded payment.

The poor man protested saying that he had purchased nothing. Despite his protestations, the cook and his friends hauled the poor man before Khoja Naser-ed-din, who at the time was a judge (Cadi). After hearing the charges, the Khoja took out several coins from his pocket and shook them in his hand to make them rattle. He then turned to the cook and pronounced his verdict. He said listen to the sounds of these coins well. The sounds of these coins is all you are entitled as payment.

The cook objected, but the judge said, "A man who demands payment for the smoke and steam of meat, deserves the jingle of coins and no more".

Contributed by Ann Poteet

ANNOUNCEMENT

The AICAA wishes to develop a pool of talents for the various activities it plans to undertake. Singers, dancers, musicians, story-tellers, actors, teachers, etc. Let us hear from you.

SPECIAL DONATIONS

We wish to express our sincere thanks for the following for their generous donations to our Flag Fund.

Clara and Norman Mouradian
Seran and Art Megerian
Ann Poteet
Mr. & Mrs. Kabbenjian

Hripsime and Bedros Dido
Aris Merjianian
Armine and Sarkis Sarkissian
Mary and Aram Sarhadian

Once the drive is over, in appreciation of their generosity, the donors' names will be inscribed on brass plates on the flag poles. **Hurry**, donations for our flags will close in December. For your donation, contact our treasurer, Joseph Yahnian at

993-5860 or send in your check to our new post office box.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Are you interested in joining the "Association of Professional Armenians of Atlanta"? Doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers, bankers, etc. If yes, give Aram Sarhadian a call or drop a note.

VOICE OF ARMENIA

Are you interested in listening to the short-wave transmissions of Radio Yerevan? If yes, call or write to Aram Sarhadian who will help you in purchasing the necessary equipment and introduce you to a group who plan to form "Friends of Radio Yerevan" to monitor the quality of transmissions throughout the North American Continent.

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____
 Zip: _____
 Tel: () _____
 Seller: _____



Armenian Cultural Association of America, Inc.

Drawing Date: December 31, 1993 at The Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown, Mass. 02172 80 Bigelow Avenue, Watertown, Massachusetts, 02172 Ph: (617)-926-6958

COMPLETE THIS FORM, INCLUDE YOUR CHECK
 AND MAIL TO THE ARMENIAN CULTURAL ASSOC.

Ticket numbers assigned on a first come basis

1994

If the winning number combination is not purchased, there is no grand prize. Winner is responsible for all taxes



The reciprocal of the winning number pay's \$1,000; Any combination of the winning number pay's \$100

MARK VIII

Standard Lincoln MARK VIII or \$30,000 Cash

Select A No. 000 - 999. Only 1000 Tickets @ \$100

List No.'s
 In Order Of
 Preference

1

2

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5

Mail your tax deductible donation and completed stub only, to the ACA Office. We will return to you, by mail, your numbered official ticket. The winning number combination will be drawn in a lottery style. Your number must match in order to win.

We Pick

Armenian Independent Cultural
Association of Atlanta, Inc.
P.O.Box 72582
Marietta, GA 30007-2582



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